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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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REVISED

June 5, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

STATUS REPORT ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

This is the first status report on the Child Care Policy Framework adopted by your Board on January 6, 2009. During the first two years, status reports are to be submitted to your Board every six months.

Summary of Accomplishments, January 2009 – June, 2009

- Collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCFS) has allowed the Office of Child Care (OCC) to offer 18 additional training sessions for child care center staff and family child care providers between April 15, 2009 and June 30, 2009.
- Strategies for accessing child care and development services have been presented to the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Projects (PIDP) and to the First 5 LA Partners in Prevention agencies. Materials have been developed and follow-up training on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List has been provided to PIDP agencies.
- Rather than recommending new legislation to address the chronic under-spending by child development programs holding California Department of Education (CDE) contracts, OCC will monitor two efforts undertaken by CDE to address this issue.
- The State Budget crisis had delayed, but not derailed, two objectives.
 - A committee has recently been established to explore how to effectively communicate the importance of early brain development and high quality child development services to clients of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). The Committee includes

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representatives of First 5 LA, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care, DPSS, selected child care resource and referral agencies, and OCC.

- Convening representatives of First 5 LA, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), local funders and County departments has been delayed until there is some certainty on the State Budget for 2009-2010. The purpose of this meeting will be to develop strategies to effectively outreach to low-income families and facilitate their children's enrollment in child development services.

A more detailed discussion of these items is contained in the attachment.

Challenges Encountered

The State Budget crisis and its impact on services is consuming the attention of service providers in Los Angeles County and throughout California. The threats to services are unprecedented. Given this climate, it is extremely difficult to engage stakeholders in planning or collaborative approaches to service delivery.

Focus for July 2009 – December 2009

At this time, OCC intends to:

- Monitor State Budget decisions and implementation of Federal Stimulus funds aimed at child care and development services.
- Monitor the local impact of State procedures aimed at maximizing CDE contracts for child care and development services.
- Continue to support the Information Campaign Committee involving representatives of First 5 LA, DPSS and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care.
- Establish procedures to capture baseline data on child care utilization for clients of DCFS and DPSS.
- Once the State Budget is finalized, OCC will convene representatives of First 5 LA, LAUP, LACOE, County departments and other funders to discuss strategies to facilitate outreach to low-income families and facilitate the enrollment of their children in child care and development services.

Each Supervisor
June 5, 2009
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Conclusion

During the first six months, incremental progress has been made toward accomplishing the goals of the Child Care Policy Framework. This progress is due to stakeholder commitment, diligence on the part of OCC, and leadership from the Policy Roundtable for Child Care.

Should you have any questions regarding these accomplishments or the focus for the coming months, please let me know or your staff may contact Kathleen Malaske-Samu at (213) 974-2440, or via e-mail at kmalaske@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:MS
KH:KMS:hn

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

Child Care Policy Framework

Discussion of First Quarter Accomplishments

This report is organized by the first three goals of the Policy Framework. Because the fourth goal calls for updating the Policy Framework every two years, it is not addressed in this report.

Goal I: Mobilize County departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care and development services aimed at: 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

1) Objectives Related to Clients of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

- In an effort to build a cadre of well trained child care workers, DCFS and the Office of Child Care are co-sponsoring 18 training sessions for child care center staff and family child care providers. The topics being addressed include:
 - Creating a High Quality Learning Environment 8 sessions
(These trainings are tailored to address child development centers, infant/toddler programs, and family child care homes.)
 - Building Positive Relationships with Children 2 sessions
 - Identifying Developmental Delays 4 sessions
 - Implementing an Infant/Toddler Curriculum 5 sessions

These training sessions will be completed by June 30, 2009. Implementation of this ambitious training agenda was delayed while State Budget reductions were decided for the current fiscal year. However, DCFS and the Office of Child Care are considering a similar collaboration for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year.

- Resource materials have been developed and distributed to the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Projects (PIDP) lead agencies. These materials identify the child care resource and referral agencies associated with each of the PIDP communities, and address how to access subsidized child care services using the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL).
- Presentations were made to PIDP and to agencies participating in the First 5 LA Partners in Prevention project, on how to link eligible families to subsidized child care. These presentations stressed the importance of using a case management approach even after families are registered on the LACEL. Because funding for subsidized child care is capped, even children who are at risk for abuse and neglect have to wait for a vacancy to become available in a subsidized child care and development program. So often, by the time a program is able to enroll a family, the family's contact information is out of date and they cannot be reached.
- The Office of Child Care has responded to PIDP agency requests for intensive training on how to use the LACEL.

2) Objectives Related to Clients of the Department of Public Social Services

This objective calls for developing a communication strategy to inform DPSS clients, including but not limited to CalWORKs participants, of the importance of early brain development and how high quality child care and development services support optimum brain development.

First 5 LA was viewed as a key stakeholder to accomplish this objective. Action was delayed due to the Governor's proposal to significantly reduce funding to all First 5 Commissions. Now that First 5 funding is once again secure, a Committee has been formed, including the Public Relations team from First 5 LA, to address the issue of early brain development.

3) Objectives Related to County Employees

Two reports on the County employee child care and development centers have been completed. The first report examines capacity, enrollment, and fees at the eleven employee centers. The second report addresses issues related to quality, access and affordability. The final report, to be completed by June 30, 2009, will make recommendations related to the economic viability of these and future centers.

Goal II: Advance public policies at all levels of government, local, State and Federal, which ensure that children and their parents receive the child care and development and family support services needed to build strong foundations for healthy, productive lives. Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

1) Local child care and development program operators, policy experts, County department representatives and Roundtable members were convened on November 6, 2008 to discuss policies which impede the full utilization of California Department of Education (CDE) child development contracts. At that time, it was noted that two actions were underway at the State level which will impact child development contracts:

- Assembly Bill 2759, by Assembly Member Dave Jones, was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 26, 2008 and will become effective on July 1, 2009. This bill will consolidate five center-based programs (State Preschool, Full-Day State Preschool, Pre-kindergarten and Family Literacy Part-Day and Full-Day, and Center Based Program) under the new California State Preschool Program (CSPP), making it possible for CSPP contractors to provide both full and part-day services to children who are three and four years of age. The group agreed that this new flexibility may facilitate programs to maximize their contracts.
- 2008-09 Budget Trailer Bill language directed CDE to promote the full utilization of child care and development funds by arranging interagency adjustments between contractors with the same type of contracts, when both agencies agree to a temporary transfer of funds for the balance of a fiscal year. Since November, CDE has worked with local child care planning councils throughout the State to develop a process whereby these voluntary transfers could be made. This process is expected to become effective July 1, 2009.

Participants agreed that the impact of these two statewide efforts to address chronic under-spending by child development contractors should be monitored to determine their impact, prior to proposing new legislation on this issue. As a result no new legislation was proposed to Intergovernmental Affairs on the issue of maximizing CDE child development contracts.

2) The Office of Child Care and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care have generated stakeholder support for removing the sunset language from the Education Code, thereby allowing Los Angeles County to continue serving a broader population in its Child Care Salary/Retention/Incentive Program. As a result of legislation adopted in 2005, participation in the Los Angeles County Investing in Early Educators program was open to persons working in CDE-contracted child development centers and to persons working in family child care home education networks, and family child care homes and centers serving a majority of subsidized children. Language to accomplish this intent will be included in the 2009-2010 Budget Trailer Bill.

Goal III: Facilitate the capacity of child care and development service providers, publicly and privately funded, to meet the child care and development needs of local families.

Objectives under this goal call for the convening of First 5 LA, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and various County departments for the purpose of developing strategies to improve outreach, access, and enrollment in child care and development services for low-income families. This meeting and the related report have been delayed as there was uncertainty regarding ongoing funding for First 5 Commissions and other services.

While funding for First 5 Commissions has been confirmed, there is still great uncertainty on the State Budget. The convening of stakeholders will take place following adoption of the State Budget.



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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

December 21, 2009

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

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STATUS REPORT ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK – SECOND REPORT

The Child Care Policy Framework adopted by your Board on January 6, 2008, calls for the submission of status reports every six months. This is the second status report, summarizing implementation activities undertaken between June and December 9, 2009. A full list of accomplishments for this period is included in the attachment.

Mobilizing County Departments

Among the most exciting developments is a collaboration launched between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start State Preschool (Head Start). Children Services Workers (CSW) in the Pomona and El Monte areas identified 190 three- and four-year-old children in foster care who were potentially eligible to participate in Head Start. During home visits, CSWs discussed Head Start services with foster parents and completed Head Start applications for 58 children. As of October 2009, 15 of those children were enrolled in Head Start programs. In addition, DCFS learned that 97 of the children were already enrolled in some type of early care and education program. Efforts are underway to expand this intensive focus on child development services to other parts of the County. As variation on this model, Los Angeles Unified School District recently approached the DCFS offices in South Los Angeles to begin recruiting children to fill 300 new Head Start spaces and 112 Early Head Start spaces. Supported by American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds, these new Head Start programs will begin serving children in February 2010.

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On average, 30 percent of the DCFS caseload is composed of children five years of age and younger. It is during these first years of life, as the architecture of the child's brain is being constructed, that experiences – be they positive or negative - have the potential for lifelong impacts. Research has shown that high quality early education programs can enhance the developmental outcomes of young children burdened by risk factors such as poverty, abuse and neglect. The stakes are high for these very young children as research has also shown that children who enter kindergarten behind their peers will most likely never catch up and are three to four times more likely to drop out in later years.

News of the successful DCFS and Head Start collaboration has already spread within the County family and beyond. Inspired by DCFS, members of the Probation Department Executive team are now working with representatives from Head Start and the Office of Child Care to integrate early education services into four specific areas:

- **Training** - for field staff on child care and Head Start resources, and how to assist clients in accessing them;
- **Gang Initiatives** - through integrating needs for child care and Head Start into the multi-disciplinary team assessments;
- **Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth** - initial focus will be on residents of St. Anne's and Florence Crittenton who are preparing to transition out of the system; and
- **Family Resource Centers** - providing child care resources and topic area speakers at the various Juvenile Halls.

By integrating child care and development issues into these service components, the participating departments will be better able to address needs of Probation youth and their families, especially those with young children.

Developing a Cadre of Skilled Child Care Providers

The Office of Child Care is working with staff of the First 5 LA Partnerships for Families and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to co-sponsor a full day seminar on the Strengthening Families Approach. The seminar will take place on Friday, March 19, 2010, at The California Endowment.

Advancing Public Policies

In 2005, Los Angeles County sponsored legislation to expand the eligibility criteria for participation in the California Department of Education (CDE) funded Investing in Early Educators Program. As a result of that legislation, 837 family child care providers and 220 persons working in child care centers have been able to participate in the Investing in Early Educators Program. These individuals have earned cash stipends while working directly with young children in qualified programs and completing college units in child development and/or general education coursework leading to a degree. The waiver allowing the expanded eligibility was due to sunset June 30, 2009. Fortunately, the 2009-10 Budget Trailer Bill included language to delete the sunset clause and allow the expanded populations to continue to participate through the life of the program.

Conclusion

With your Board's support, the Child Care Policy Framework has ignited innovative solutions to longstanding problems. This Office applauds the leadership of DCFS and Head Start for overcoming a variety of hurdles and successfully enrolling foster children in Head Start programs. It was that success which caught the attention of the Probation Department and has led to a new collaboration aimed at addressing the complex problems confronting Probation youth and their families. We do, however, recognize the serious challenge that the growing State Budget shortfall poses to child development and other social services.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the report, or your staff may contact Kathleen Malaske-Samu of the Office of Child Care at (213) 974-2440, or via e-mail at kmalaske@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:JW
KH:KMS:hn

Attachment

c: Patricia Ploehn, Department of Children and Families
Robert Taylor, Probation Department
Terri Chew Nishimura, Policy Roundtable for Child Care
Evelyn Martinez, First 5 LA
Darline Robles, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Sarah Younglove, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Head Start

Child Care Policy Framework Second Quarter Accomplishments June - December 2009

This report is organized by the first three goals of the Policy Framework. Because the fourth goal calls for updating the Policy Framework every two years, it is not addressed in this report.

Goal I: Mobilize County departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care and development services aimed at: 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

a. Objectives Related to Clients of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

1. Work to establish a baseline of the number of DCFS clients, birth to five years of age, who are enrolled in child care and development services and increase the utilization of such services.
 - The Department of Children and Family Services and Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start (LACOE - HS) are working together to enroll foster children in Early Head Start and Head Start services. This project was rolled out in Pomona and El Monte where 190 children between three and four years of age were identified. Working with foster parents, Children's Services Workers (CSWs) completed 58 applications for Head Start. By mid-October, 15 children were enrolled in Head Start programs. As a part of this process, CSWs also identified 97 children who were already enrolled in child care and development programs.
 - The Office of Child Care has surveyed the 157 California Department of Education (CDE) contractors providing child development program services in Los Angeles County. The purpose of the survey was to learn how many children at risk of abuse or neglect were being served in these programs during the month of October 2009. With 32 percent of the agencies responding, 263 children were reported to be receiving child development services due to their status as being at risk of abuse or neglect.
 - During the same period, DCFS served 1,974 children with open cases, ranging in age from birth to 13 years of age in their CDE funded child development program. These children were residing with their birth families or with relative caregivers.

- Collaborative work was initiated with the Probation Department and LACOE-HS to focus on the following areas:
 - **Training** - for Probation field staff on child care and Head Start resources and how to assist clients in accessing them;
 - **Gang Initiatives** - through integrating needs for child care and Head Start into the multi-disciplinary team assessments;
 - **Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth** - initial focus will be on residents of St. Anne's and Florence Crittenton who are preparing to transition out of the system; and
 - **Family Resource Centers** – providing child care resources and topic area speakers at the various Juvenile Halls
2. Work with representatives of DCFS and community stakeholders to develop a cadre of licensed child care settings that are trained to meet the unique needs of children and families, where the children have experienced or are at risk of experiencing abuse and/or neglect.
- DCFS and the OCC are entering into a second training collaboration to begin in early 2010 and run through June 30, 2010. This collaboration will provide training opportunities which focus on the child care program elements shown by research to impact program quality and child outcomes, including:
 - Creating high quality learning environments in child care centers and family child care homes;
 - Building positive relationships with children;
 - Identifying developmental delays;
 - Implementing an infant/toddler curriculum; and
 - Introduction to computers for child care providers.
 - The OCC is working with staff of the First 5 LA Partnerships for Families and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to co-sponsor a full day seminar on the Strengthening Families Approach. The seminar will take place on Friday, March 19, 2010 at The California Endowment.
3. Work with representatives of DCFS and lead agencies implementing the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Projects (PIDP), Family Preservation, Family Support, and other family centered services to establish relationships with the appropriate child care resource and referral agencies and local child care and development providers.
- The Office of Child Care continues to refine a series of written materials intended to assist “non-child development service providers” through the complicated maze of child development services. The intent is that related service providers adopt a case management approach to assisting their

clients with child care services. Revised materials are available on the OCC Web page at www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

b. Objectives Related to Clients of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)

1. Work with representatives of DPSS, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, First 5 LA and other stakeholders, to research communication strategies which would inform DPSS clients of the importance of early brain development and quality child development services.

- DPSS has clarified the new regulations which expand the pool of CalWORKs participants who can choose to “opt out” of Welfare-to-Work activities and consequently not have access to CalWORKs funded child care services. These families may however, be eligible for other child development services.

Recognizing the fiscal restraints on all members, this group is now working to develop an effective messaging strategy. The participation of the First 5 LA Commission Public Relations staff will be critically important to this effort.

c. Objectives Related to County Employees

1. Analyze the current network of employee child care centers and development recommendation on how to support the quality of these services, ensure access to employees of all incomes, expand services and ensure the economic viability of all programs.

- Three reports on the County employee child care and development centers have been completed. The first report examines capacity, enrollment, and fees at the eleven employee centers. The second report addresses issues related to quality, access and affordability and the final report makes recommendations related to the economic viability of these and future centers. The reports are available from OCC.

In addition, efforts related to employee child care services include:

- Working with representatives of the Olive View Medical Center and the child care operator regarding replacement of the employee child care center destroyed in the Sayre Fire in November 2008; and
- Assisting a department in developing a child care needs assessment instrument, conducting a needs assessment survey and analyzing the responses.

Goal II: Advance public policies at all levels of government - local, State and Federal -which ensure that children and their parents receive the child care and development and family support services needed to build strong foundations for healthy, productive lives. Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

- a. The Child Care Planning Committee has coordinated the first temporary, voluntary transfer of funds between child development program operators holding CDE contracts. Requests were submitted to CDE in early November 2009, and verbal approval has been received to transfer \$1,050,000 from agencies currently under spending to those that can expand services to maximize funding. This process is intended to retain funds in the County and ensure that needed services are provided to eligible families.
- b. In 2005, Los Angeles County sponsored AB 1285. This bill, which was signed by the Governor, allowed Los Angeles County to enroll a broader population of participants in the child care retention program funded by CDE. This waiver was due to sunset June 30, 2009. Fortunately, provisions were made in the 2009-10 Budget Trailer Bill language to delete the sunset clause and allow the expanded populations to continue to participate through the life of the program.
- c. Looking to the upcoming State and Federal Legislative sessions, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care, in conjunction with the Child Care Planning Committee, convened a meeting of community stakeholders and child care and related service providers for the purpose of exploring legislative priorities for the upcoming year. The following challenges and opportunities were identified.

Challenges	Opportunities
▪ Increasing State budget short-fall and the threat to services for children and families	▪ Federal reauthorization of Head Start and the Child Care & Development Block Grant
▪ Diminished capacity of Community Care Licensing	▪ Federal Early Learning Challenge Grants
	▪ California is taking needed actions to qualify for federal funds including the Early Learning Challenge Grants and the Race to the Top

A key strategy identified at this meeting was the need to work across disciplines and demonstrate to policy makers the relationships between child development services, mental health, work force participation, etc. The Policy Roundtable for Child Care, in conjunction with the Child Care Planning Committee will coordinate efforts to foster such dialogues.



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June 14, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

THIRD STATUS REPORT ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

On January 6, 2009, your Board adopted the Child Care Policy Framework (Framework). This document serves as the third status report and summarizes implementation activities undertaken between late December 2009 and June 9, 2010.

Implementation Highlights

We are pleased to report significant progress in meeting the goals of the Framework.

- **Enrolling Children in Early Childhood Education Services**

Goal 1: Mobilize County Departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care into services aimed at: 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start State Preschool (LACOE-HS) have expanded their collaboration to include Central and East Los Angeles. These areas were targeted so as to take advantage of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funded expansion of Head Start programs.

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During February and March 2010, DCFS offices identified 266 children between three and five years of age who were potentially eligible for Head Start services. Just over 50 percent of these children were already enrolled or participating in a child development program. DCFS and LACOE-HS were successful in enrolling 70 of the remaining 131 children in Head Start programs.

DCFS and LACOE-HS have established a referral partnership with other Head Start agencies in the County. This partnership facilitates the enrollment of DCFS clients into Head Start programs throughout the County. Recruitment is underway for the upcoming program year. DCFS has set a goal to enroll over 1,200 children under the age of five into Head Start and Early Head Start programs throughout the County and is targeting children placed with Foster Family Agencies. In addition, DCFS is working with Foster Family Agencies to identify early education enrollment trends among these agencies.

- **Training Activities**

A number of training activities have been implemented during this period. The Strengthening Families Approach has informed many of these activities. Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (Center), the Strengthening Families Approach focuses on promoting five Protective Factors:

- Parental resilience;
- Social connections;
- Knowledge of parenting and child development;
- Concrete support in times of need; and
- Children's social and emotional development.

Research has shown that these factors can reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect by providing parents with the information and support needed to parent more effectively, even during stressful periods. Three County departments, DCFS, Probation, and Mental Health (DMH), are actively integrating the Strengthening Families Approach and the Protective Factors into their work with children and families. Working within this common framework could facilitate communication and the integration of services across County departments, as well as with community-based organizations.

On March 19, 2010, the Office of Child Care (OCC) joined First 5 LA and the Center in sponsoring a conference on the Strengthening Families Approach to preventing child abuse. This event, which was designed to facilitate relationships across disciplines, was attended by over 120 persons. Participants included representatives from the First 5 LA Partnerships for Families Initiative, DCFS, DMH and community mental

health providers, Probation, and early care and education programs, including Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) participants. We were pleased that a number of Los Angeles Unified School District Early Education Centers who are participating in STEP were in attendance. It is the intent of First 5 LA that this event will be supported by follow-up activities aimed at fostering the integration of the Strengthening Families Approach and relationships across disciplines.

STEP, a child care quality rating and support project underway in eleven communities in this County, also incorporates the Strengthening Families Approach into its rating and training components. In an effort to build the pool of early educators prepared to serve children and families involved with DCFS, DCFS funded the STEP training component. Between January and June 2010, OCC coordinated 50 training sessions attended by over 700 early educators. We were particularly pleased to be able to provide participants with key resource materials, including Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Kits and the Spanish version of the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale.

Between January and June 2010, OCC and LACOE-HS conducted 12 full-day training sessions for Juvenile Deputy Probation Officers. These trainings addressed the importance of early childhood development, the Strengthening Families Approach, the protective factors, healthy brain development, and introduced participants to the complex "system" of early care and education resources. Representatives from Probation, OCC, and LACOE-HS are scheduled to meet and explore how the information presented during the trainings will be sustained and incorporated into the work of the Department.

In January 2010, representatives from DCFS, OCC, and a Board Office, had the opportunity to participate in the Casey Family Programs Symposium in Seattle. This one-day symposium was titled "Applying the Science of Early Childhood Development to State Policy," and participants included representatives from Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. Our Los Angeles County team found the information presented by Dr. Jack Shonkoff and others to be both compelling and critically important to share with local policy makers. We are delighted to report that Casey Family Programs is working with a variety of local stakeholders to convene a similar event in Los Angeles in the late fall. We will be updating your Board as plans are finalized.

- **Advancing Public Policies**

Goal 2: Advance public policies at all levels of government, local, State, and Federal, which ensure that children and their parents receive the child care and development and family support services needed to build strong foundations for healthy, productive lives. Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaborations among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

The Governor's proposed budgets, presented in January and May 2010, have dominated implementation activities related to this goal. The OCC has been working with various members of the Chief Executive Office's Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs Office and community-based agencies to respond to these proposals. While the Governor's proposal to eliminate the majority of subsidized child development services has been rejected by the Legislature, the issue of significant service reductions continues. The OCC has compiled data to show the very direct connections between subsidized child care services and employment, local economies, and child outcomes. Four fact sheets on these issues are attached for your information.

Goal 3: Facilitate the capacity of child care and development service providers, publicly and privately funded, to meet the child care and development needs of local families.

Activity related to this goal has been on hold given the State budget crisis.

Conclusion

With your Board's support, the Framework has facilitated innovative collaborations between:

- DCFS and LACOE-HS, resulting in increased numbers of DCFS children becoming enrolled in Head Start programs;
- DCFS and OCC to provide 50 STEP training sessions to over 700 early childhood educators;
- LACOE-HS, OCC, and the Probation Department to train nearly 300 Juvenile Deputy Probation Officers on the Strengthening Families Approach and the system of child care and development services in Los Angeles County; and

- First 5 LA, the Center, and OCC to train a multi-disciplinary audience on the Strengthening Families Approach.

During the upcoming period, efforts will continue to connect families receiving County services to child care development programs and to ensure that appropriate child care and development services are available to meet the needs of children and families in Los Angeles County.

Should your staff have questions regarding this update or the Framework, please let me know or your staff may contact Kathy House at (213) 974-4530, or via e-mail at khouse@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:KH
LB:KMS:hn

Attachments (4)

- c Children and Family Services
Probation
First 5 Los Angeles
Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start

FACT SHEET

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT – FISCAL YEAR 2010-11:
IMPACT ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVENUE, JOBS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Funding from the State of California for a broad variety of child care and development programs and services has created and supported thousands of jobs in Los Angeles County. The income from these jobs is circulated into the local economy, supporting other businesses. Both income and sales taxes generated from these jobs, in turn, help pay for State government.

As with all jobs, there is a multiplier effect. Jobs in the child care and development sector have a direct and intensified effect as it enables parents to obtain and maintain employment. Parents who rely on subsidized child care and development services to work and support their families are at great risk of losing their employment if these essential services are cut or eliminated. Percentage cuts to programs affect hundreds of these families; **elimination of full-time child care and development services and supports will mean thousands of families will lose their employment and will therefore contribute to a shrinking economy and a decreasing tax base.**

Unlike other workforce reductions where workers may be directed to other job opportunities, severely reducing child care and development services essentially freezes many low to moderate income families out of the workforce entirely. Regardless of what the work is, they need child care. This will have the effect of creating greater demands on unemployment funds, welfare assistance, and many County level health and human services such as emergency health care and child welfare services at a time when these services are also at risk of being restricted or eliminated.

Potential impacts of Governor's Budget Proposals in Los Angeles County:

• Los Angeles County revenues eliminated in Governor's revised budget proposal ⁱ	\$835,000,000
• Number of children (0 - 12 years old) at risk of losing subsidized child care ⁱⁱ	98,337
• Number of agencies, organizations and businesses with reduced revenues ⁱⁱⁱ	109
• Number of subcontracting businesses (child care programs, family child care providers, and individuals) with reduced revenues resulting in decreased purchasing power and tax revenues ^{iv}	22,000
• Number of teachers and other child care workers at-risk of losing their jobs ^v	9,952
• Number of management and other support staff at-risk of losing their jobs ^{vi}	1,395
• Number of parents at-risk of losing child care and development services needed to maintain their jobs ^{vii}	73,753
• Amount of income (purchasing capacity and tax base) lost in addition to the reduced incomes/wages of those supported through child care funds ^{viii}	\$1.47 billion

ⁱ Total amount results from aggregating all allocated funds for Child Care Centers (CCTR), Family Child Care Home Education Networks, and California State Preschool Programs (CSPP) (full-time) as documented in the California Department of Education (CDE) CATS Report (August 2009); for the Alternative Payment (AP) Programs, and CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2, and 3 as reported by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles; and for CalWORKs Child Care Stage 1 as reported by the Department of Public Social Services.

ⁱⁱ Current average enrollments reported by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (AP, CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2, and 3); and CDE CATS report (August 2009); DCFS enrollment estimated based on costs per child.

ⁱⁱⁱ CDE CATS report (August 2009).

^{iv} Estimate based on number of children served by AP, and CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2 and 3 including centers, Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs), and license-exempt individuals (assuming 30 to 50% of individuals are with a license-exempt caregiver).

^v Estimate based on numbers of children served in CCTR and CSPP full time by taking an average ratio of one provider/teacher per eight children; and estimate based on the children served in AP, CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2 and 3 who are not with a license-exempt caregiver, using an average ratio of one provider/teacher per eight children.

^{vi} Reports from individual agencies and calculations for AP and the CalWORKS Stages 1, 2, and 3 based on contract size.

^{vii} Number of children losing child care times 75% to account for multiple children in some families.

^{viii} Number of parents losing child care times an average annual gross household income of \$20,000 per year.

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1000

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Fact Sheet

Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL)

Connecting Families to Subsidized Child Care and Development Programs

Subsidized child development programs make it possible for parents to participate in the work force and continue their education and/or training. Young children who have the opportunity to participate in high quality child development programs tend to arrive at school with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.¹

In Los Angeles County, approximately 96,000 children receive such services and an additional 19,700 children are income eligible, but are waiting for a space to become available for them.

The Problem

Historically, child development programs serving low-income families maintained their own lists of families waiting for services. Families desperately seeking subsidized services so they could work added their names to multiple program waiting lists in the hope that they would eventually be contacted to enroll their children. Accordingly, it was impossible to accurately determine the need for the child development services due to duplicative listings of families and families eligible for and needing services, but not on any list.

The Solution

In 2005, the Education Code authorized and provided funding for a Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) in each county. The CELs in each county consolidated the waiting lists maintained by their local California Department of Education (CDE)-contracted child development programs into one registry list of low-income, eligible families. Policies and procedures were established that included requiring the CDE-contracted programs to draw from their local CEL to enroll families as space and funding became available. While the CDE developed overall program guidelines, individual counties were allowed to design, maintain and administer their CEL.

In Los Angeles County, the LACEL serves multiple purposes, including:

- Providing a one-stop, one-time registry for families waiting to access a subsidized child development program and being connected to a program as funds and space become available.
- Conducting ongoing training and technical assistance to CDE-contracted program staff to facilitate timely enrollments of eligible families.
- Participating in outreach activities to families to inform them of the LACEL, including how to register so they can connect to a subsidized program as funding and space become available.
- Counseling families on the array of child care and development programs to help parents make informed choices; preparing them for enrollment; and updating their information on the LACEL.

Local Results

- In 2009-10, 11,633 families with 9,608 children were enrolled in child development programs from the LACEL.
- As of June 11, 2010, 12,855 of families with 19,719 children are registered on the LACEL.

Families Waiting for Services by Age of Children and Need for Full-day or Part-Day				Families Enrolled by Age of Children in Full-day or Part-Day		
	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age	Infants/Toddlers	Preschoolers	School Age
Number of Children						
▪ Full-day	6,998	3,840	2,218	1,284	1,127	1,878
▪ Part-day	1,464	2,167	1,903	992	2,970	1,357
▪ Not indicated	344	83	702			
<i>Total</i>	<i>8,806</i>	<i>6,090</i>	<i>4,823</i>	<i>2,276</i>	<i>4,097</i>	<i>3,235</i>

For more information on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL),
please contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-1664
or visit our Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

¹ Examples include *The High Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40* by Lawrence Schwienhart, www.highscope.org, *The Children of the Cost Quality and Outcome Study Go to School*, Carollee Howes, et al, and *Success in Early Intervention: The Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Arthur Reynolds.

Fact Sheet

Los Angeles County Investing in Early Educators Program (IEEP) *A Child Care Salary/ Retention Initiative Program*

Subsidized child development programs make it possible for parents to participate in the work force and continue their education and/or training. Young children who have the opportunity to participate in high quality child development programs tend to arrive at school with the skills needed to succeed in school and life.¹ Well educated and consistent early educators are critical to high quality programs.

In Los Angeles County, approximately 96,000 children receive such services and an additional 19,700 children are income eligible, but waiting for a space to become available for them.

The Problem

Child care workers are seriously underpaid. In California, the mean hourly wage for child care workers in 2008 was \$11.14 per hour or \$23,171 per year.² Local positions with comparable mean hourly wages include entry level Los Angeles County Parking Lot Attendants (\$11.52 per hour), or entry level Los Angeles County Animal Care Attendant I (\$14.62 per hour).³

Low salaries and inadequate benefits undermine recruitment efforts and fuel staff turnover. Well educated and consistent caregivers impact the quality of care children experience. The quality of child care and development experiences impact child outcomes, including school and life success.

The Solution

AB 212, introduced by Assembly Member Dion Aroner, was signed into law in 2000. This bill established the Child Care Salary/Retention Initiative for the purpose of increasing the retention of qualified early childhood educators working directly with young children in California Department of Education (CDE) contracted centers. While CDE developed overall program guidelines, individual counties were given the opportunity to tailor programs to meet local needs.

In Los Angeles County, the Investing in Early Educators Program (IEEP) is open to persons working directly with children in child development programs funded by CDE or programs where a majority of the children receive CDE subsidies. In addition, participants are required to hold a Child Development Permit and complete at least three college units in Child Development. Successful participants are able to earn cash stipends, which mitigate their low salaries.

Local Results

- Between July 2001 and July 2010, IEEP will award 17,511 stipends to early educators working in Los Angeles County.
 - In FY 2009-10, nearly 2,000 persons will earn cash stipends between \$1,000 and \$2,000
 - IEEP stipends will infuse over \$3 million into the local Los Angeles County economy
- Over the life of the program, IEEP will assist 1,054 persons in earning college degrees in child development or closely related fields (499 Associate of Arts degrees, 479 Bachelor of Arts degrees, and 76 graduate degrees).
- Research conducted in 2006 found that 63 percent of stipend recipients compared to 55 percent of non-recipients were more likely to still be working at the same center.⁴

- Ninety-seven percent of recipients felt better or much better able to work with children, families, and colleagues as a result of the course they took.⁵
-

¹ Examples include *The High Scope Perry Preschool Study through Age 40* by Lawrence Schwienhart, www.highscope.org, *The Children of the Cost Quality and Outcome Study Go to School*, Carollee Howes, et al, and *Success in Early Intervention: The Chicago Child-Parent Centers*, Arthur Reynolds.

² Source: Report by the Center for Child Care Workforce U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey: Occupational Earnings in the United States, 2008. www.bls.gov/ncs/ncswage2008.htm.

³ LA County Salary and Class Listing, February 2010.

⁴ *Final Report for the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program*, prepared by ORC Macro, 2006, p. 3.

⁵ *Final Report for the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program*, prepared by ORC Macro, 2006, p. 3.

For additional information on the Investing in Early Educators Program,
contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-4103
or visit www.childcare.lacounty.gov

Fact Sheet
Local Planning Council
A Community Connector and Capacity Builder for Child Development Services

Local Planning Councils (LPCs) were developed in each county in 1996-97 as a component of the Child Care and Development Fund Block Grant, which was created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. In requiring the LPCs, the federal government recognized the importance of establishing independent, diversified groups who could quantify the need for child development services and determine which areas within each county have the greatest need for subsidized care. Only LPCs have been charged with collaborating with subsidized and non-subsidized child development providers, county welfare departments and human service agencies, regional centers, job training programs, employers, integrated child and family service councils, tribal councils, local and state children and families commissions, parent organizations, Early Start family resource centers, local child care resource and referral programs, and other local stakeholders to build the local child development infrastructure.

Responding to these foundational requirements, each LPC conducts periodic countywide needs assessments that consider the child development needs of all families and identifies gaps for both low income families and families who can and do use market rate child development services. Each LPC has conducted research to identify geographic priorities for the limited funding available for subsidized child development used by the California Department of Education (CDE) and by local agencies and organizations in expanding child development opportunities.

Creating Links and Maximizing Resources

Since inception, LPCs have become robust catalysts for connection, collaboration, and coordination among historically isolated programs, services, and stakeholders. This ability to connect and collaborate is at the heart of the success of LPCs. Funding for LPCs amounts to only \$6.6 million statewide from the Quality Improvement Plan. However, LPCs have leveraged significant resources from other sources to enhance and expand the child development system in each county through quality improvement activities, training, workforce development, and outreach to underserved populations.

The LPCs have developed comprehensive plans that address the specific conditions in their respective counties, as well as more general issues that impact the availability, accessibility, and quality of child development services. Implementation of the plans engages many players and stakeholders in each county thus multiplying the impact of the LPC.

LPCs as Partners with CDE within Our Local Communities

The LPCs are critical partners with the CDE by coordinating statewide efforts at the community level.

- LPCs enable other CDE-contracted programs to stretch their reach and effectiveness by promoting, coordinating, and hosting California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) trainings, WestEd: Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) trainings, and more.

- When CDE was authorized to pilot a new strategy called the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds designed to reduce the amount of under-earned funds from CDE child development contractors, it turned to the LPCs to coordinate the pilot in each county. During the pilot year, the LPC for Los Angeles County (e.g. Child Care Planning Committee), coordinated the reallocation of \$2 million for child development services that otherwise would have gone unused and returned to the State.
- CDE field staff consult with LPC coordinators when CDE contractors request changes in service priorities so that the Sacramento based staff will have an accurate picture of local conditions and factors.
- LPC Coordinators developed the guidelines for determining geographic funding priorities, which was authorized by the CDE and is now uniformly used in each county. The LPC Coordinators are now developing a uniform needs assessment process so that CDE can aggregate data submitted by each county into a statewide assessment of need and capacity.

Incubators of Change

LPCs are often in a position to test new strategies and initiatives locally that can be implemented statewide. For example, in Los Angeles County:

- The LPC has facilitated linkages among Head Start, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Probation Department to ensure that more children of probation families and families in the child welfare system are successfully enrolled in and receive the benefit of Head Start services.
- The LPC organized a major forum of family child care providers to hear about and provide input into the development of the Early Learning Quality Improvement System in support of CDE's efforts to ensure broad based input. The forum was conducted in English, Spanish and Chinese and became a model for LPCs across the state.
- The LPC developed a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) long before the State legislation was passed mandating the development of a QRIS. The committee's work contributed to the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP).

California is rich in services, programs, initiatives and supports as part of its diversified child development system. However, there has been little attention paid to optimal utilization of all of these resources. Efforts of coordinating and connecting the components of the child development system in a meaningful way and leveraging other stakeholders and support are a direct result of the work of the LPC.

For more information on Local Planning Councils
or the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee,
please contact the Office of Child Care at (213)974-4103 or
go to our Website at www.childcare.lacounty.gov



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

January 28, 2011

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

FOURTH STATUS REPORT ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

On January 6, 2009, your Board adopted the Child Care Policy Framework (Framework). This document serves as the fourth status report and summarizes implementation activities undertaken between late July 2010 and December 2010.

IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

We are pleased to report continued progress in meeting the goals of the Framework. This report is organized by the four major goals of the Framework.

Goal 1: Mobilize County departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care into services aimed at: 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

Enrolling Children in Early Childhood Education Services

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education - Head Start have continued their collaboration aimed at increasing the number of young children in foster care who are participating in Head Start and Early Head Start services. The recent expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start services, with funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), made

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it possible to actually enroll these children in programs – rather than adding their names to a waiting list.

Unfortunately, the 111th Congress did not pass an omnibus appropriations bill. The Continuing Resolution that funds the Federal government until early March 2011, is at 2010 levels and does not include the expanded levels of funding that were provided under ARRA. It is not clear if the increased funds for Head Start and Early Head Start will be restored with the adoption of a new Federal budget. If these funds are not restored, vulnerable families in this County and throughout the country, will lose access to valuable services.

Training Activities

With support from the Casey Family Programs, representatives from DCFS, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Departments of Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, Public Social Services, First 5 LA, Magnolia Place, Parents in Partnership, and the South Bay Center for Counseling collaborated to plan and convene the *Strengthening Families Leadership Summit: Translating Knowledge to Action* held on November 10, 2010 at The California Endowment. This event was targeted to “leaders” and participants included over 120 persons from County departments, community-based agencies, and philanthropic organizations.

Mr. Erwin McEwen, Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), presented the keynote address, describing why IDCFS has embraced the Strengthening Families Approach (SFA).

“My vision for DCFS and child welfare integrates the “Protective Factors” present in the Strengthening Families program model with trauma informed practices. By building protective factors into the child welfare system as a whole, quality practice is supported and children heal. This integrated and holistic service model requires a paradigm shift to strengthen and support families. DCFS should not be in the business of raising children, DCFS should be in the business of strengthening families.”

The size of the IDCFS (in 2009, 96,765 children were reported for abuse and neglect and 27,453 children were indicated for abuse and neglect) and its successful integration of the SFA serve as a compelling example of positive change in a large child welfare agency. As noted in an earlier report to your Board, the SFA was developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and focuses on promoting five Protective Factors:

- Parental resilience;
- Social connections;
- Knowledge of parenting and child development;
- Concrete support in times of need; and
- Children's social and emotional development.

Research has shown that these factors can reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect by providing parents with the information and support needed to parent more effectively, even during stressful periods.

The conference included six breakout sessions, which highlighted local efforts where County departments and community-based agencies have adopted the SFA and incorporated the Protective Factors into their work with children, families and communities. Kathy House, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, participated in the Closing Panel, and expressed County support for a multi-sector agenda focused on strengthening families.

Building on the training provided to Juvenile Deputy Probation Officers during the last fiscal year, two part-day follow-up sessions were conducted in November 2010. Responding to the Probation Department's efforts to move to a more family focused practice model, this training session focused on child development resources available to families and how to assist families in accessing these services. This training session was developed and presented by representatives of the Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start and the Office of Child Care (OCC).

Advancing Public Policies

Goal 2: Advance public policies at all levels of government, local, State, and Federal, which ensure that children and their parents receive the child care and development and family support services needed to build strong foundations for healthy, productive lives. Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaborations among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

On October 8, 2010, 100 days into the fiscal year, Governor Schwarzenegger signed California's 2010-11 Budget. During that long siege, child development programs employed a variety of strategies to try to maintain services to children and families - financial reserves were drained, staff were laid off or became "volunteers," and in the worst cases, programs closed their doors. Unlike past years, when the State budget was delayed, State-subsidized child development programs had no guarantee that they

would be reimbursed for services provided between July 1st and adoption of the State budget.

While reductions were anticipated (and realized), the Governor's decision to **eliminate** funding for CalWORKs' Stage 3 Child Care effective November 1, 2010, was a shock. Families and agencies were thrown into turmoil. Fortunately, a law suit filed on behalf of a number of Stage 3 parents and Parent Voices Oakland resulted in a settlement extending Stage 3 Child Care services to December 31, 2010, and the directive to "screen" families to determine their eligibility for alternative subsidized child care services.

The OCC worked closely with representatives of the CEO Intergovernmental Relations team and with community stakeholders to provide information on the impact of policy decisions on children and families in Los Angeles County and on the local child care provider community. The near future will include serious funding challenges for the child care community. The hard won advances in increasing the supply and quality of services are at risk.

Goal 3: Facilitate the capacity of child care and development service providers, publicly and privately funded, to meet the child care and development needs of local families.

The excruciatingly long delay in arriving at the 2010-11 State Budget prompted local interest in developing a mechanism to assist child development programs when funding from the California Department of Education is delayed. A group of local philanthropies and child development program representatives are exploring "bridge funding models" that have been developed in other counties in California. The goal of this working group, including representatives of the OCC, is to have a "bridge funding" process in place by July 2011, for child development programs in Los Angeles County.

Despite the grim state of California's fiscal situation, we are delighted to report that the Packard Foundation and CA First 5 are working with the Ounce of Prevention and the Buffet Foundation to bring Educare early education programs to California – Santa Clara and Los Angeles in particular. Locally, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, Preschool California, the Advancement Project, California Community Foundation, the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, and the OCC have started the planning process. We are very fortunate that LAUSD has bond funds available and is interested in building a new child development center. At this point, it appears that the new Educare center could be developed in the cities of Bell or Cudahy.

Educare is a network of state-of-the-art early childhood schools operating full-day, full-year programs for children from birth to 5 years of age. Educare centers typically serve between 140 to 200 low-income children and their families and have a teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in every classroom. These centers form a growing network to advance quality and change public policy in their own states and across the country.

Part of the Educare approach is to blend and maximize available public sector funding, and to involve philanthropy to "fill the funding gap" to support high quality services. Currently, there are Educare sites in Chicago, Omaha, Milwaukee, Tulsa, Denver, Miami, Oklahoma City, Seattle, Kansas City, and Maine.

Goal 4: Update this plan every two years, on the anniversary of the Policy Framework's adoption. Updates will include input from the Roundtable, the Child Care Planning Committee, County departments, and community stakeholders.

Efforts are underway to update the Framework for the period of 2011–13. It is our intention to present the updated version to your Board by March 2011.

Conclusion

With your Board's support, the Framework has increased awareness among County departments of the potential for high-quality child development services to:

- Prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Support family self-sufficiency; and
- Promote school and life success.

Further, the Framework has facilitated collaborations which have resulted in increased utilization of child development services among children and families receiving County services. We are proud of these accomplishments, but recognize that the fiscal situation in California and policy decisions in Washington D.C. could undo the progress made in the past two years. The CEO, in conjunction with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care are preparing the update to this Framework and are seeking ways to expand and institutionalize our efforts to support families and the optimal development of young children in Los Angeles County. The update to the Framework will be presented to your Board by March 2011.

Board of Supervisors
January 28, 2011
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Should your staff have questions regarding this update or the Framework, please let me know or your staff may contact Kathleen Malaske-Samu at (213) 974-2440, or via e-mail at kmalaske@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:KH
LB:KMS:hn

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Probation
Los Angeles County Office of Education – Head Start



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Fifth District

March 29, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK 2011 - 2013 (ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

The Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care, is requesting adoption of an update to the 2009 Child Care Policy Framework. Additional recommendations call for: 1) an analysis of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Strengthening Families implementation plan and recommendations for Los Angeles County; 2) an assessment of the feasibility of implementing a system to: a) monitor the utilization of subsidized child care services in Los Angeles County; and b) assist families known to County departments in accessing these services; 3) the appointments of additional County department representatives to the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Roundtable representatives to relevant County Commissions; and 4) the submission of regular progress reports on implementation of the Child Care Policy Framework to the Board of Supervisors.

JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Adopt the Child Care Policy Framework (Framework) for 2011 - 2013 and support stakeholders as they enhance collaborative efforts and negotiate across organizational boundaries to promote access to high quality child development services for children and families;
2. Direct the Office of Child Care (OCC) to analyze the Strengthening Families implementation plan developed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) Strengthening Families and report back to your Board with

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recommendations by June 1, 2011 on how the child welfare and child development sectors in Los Angeles County could be more effectively integrated;

3. Direct the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable) to assess the feasibility of implementing a Countywide system to track vacancies in subsidized child development programs for the purpose of facilitating access to these services by vulnerable families known to County departments. The initial report back to your Board will be submitted by September 1, 2011.
4. Direct County Counsel to amend the Roundtable ordinance to add representatives from the Departments of Mental Health, Probation, and Public Health as members and direct the department heads to nominate representatives to serve on the Roundtable. In addition, the Roundtable should be represented on County Commissions that focus on young children; and
5. Direct the OCC to provide status reports on implementation of the Framework in July and January of each year between 2011 and 2013. The July 2011 report will include an analysis of the impact of the California Budget on child development services.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Framework, adopted by your Board on January 6, 2009, directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to update the Framework every two years. This letter is requesting your Board's adoption of the updated Framework and related actions to facilitate realizing the ambitious goals of this policy agenda. **We recognize that State resources for child development services are slated for major reductions. Given this reality, the County's efforts to assist vulnerable families in accessing child development services are extremely important.**

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommendations of this Board letter are consistent with Goals 2 and 3 of the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan:

- Supporting the well-being of children and families, and
- Promoting the delivery of customer oriented services Countywide, including the County's diverse unincorporated communities.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The majority of recommendations in this letter and the proposed Framework for 2011 - 2013 call for increased coordination and collaboration among County departments and community stakeholders. County departments and stakeholders have made commitments to engage in these activities using existing funding. Goal 1 of the Framework calls for the expansion of the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP), a child care quality rating and support system. Funding

has been identified for this purpose and that contract is expected come to your Board for approval by mid-April 2011.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On January 6, 2009, your Board adopted the Framework, which included a directive to update the Framework every two years. The attached document fulfills that directive.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed Framework for 2011 - 2013 builds on the successes and lessons learned over the past two years. It also takes into account California's dire budget situation - **the Legislature is considering reductions to subsidized child development services ranging from 15 to 25 percent.** These reductions will have particularly negative impacts on vulnerable children and families known to County departments. These are the children who stand to reap the most benefit from participating in high quality child development programs and who are most at risk for the preventable but long term negative impacts of poverty, abuse and/or neglect. Therefore, local efforts aimed at maximizing resources and connecting vulnerable children and families to services are critically important.

The goals of the Framework for 2011 - 2013 are as follows:

1. The quality of child development services for children birth to five years of age in Los Angeles County will be improved as the STEP is expanded and support services to STEP participants are intensified;
2. Utilization of local, State, and Federal child development resources will be maximized. All available resources and policies will help strengthen the child development infrastructure and support the expansion of high quality child development programs that integrate family support, health, mental health, and other relevant services;
3. County departments will work collaboratively with each other and community partners to maximize the utilization of available child development resources, support quality improvements and promote the delivery of integrated services for children and their families;
4. County departments will work collaboratively with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, key school districts and community-based child development services to integrate services; and
5. The CEO will facilitate County department efforts to work internally, across departments, and with community partners, to integrate the Strengthening Families Approach (SFA) and Protective Factors into their work with children, families, and communities and engage families in high quality child development services. The CEO, with assistance from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and key local partners, will establish a multidisciplinary

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
March 29, 2011
Page 4


SFA learning community designed to support ongoing professional development and SFA projects that are underway or emerging in County departments.


County departments and community stakeholders have signed on to achieve these goals. The funding reductions we anticipate to all human services will certainly increase the challenges before us. However, we also recognize that these reductions will "add value" to efforts to coordinate service and resources.

CONCLUSION

We have worked with a range of County departments and community stakeholders to develop the policy recommendations before you. We are confident that continued progress on these measures is both possible and more important than ever before during this tough economic climate. Upon adoption by your Board, we will launch the implementation of the Framework.

Respectfully submitted,


WILLIAM T. FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer


TERRI CHEW NISHIMURA
Chair, Policy Roundtable for Child Care

WTF:KH:LB
KMS:hn

Attachment

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County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Mental Health
Probation
Public Health

Los Angeles County Child Care Policy Framework 2011- 2013

Promoting Healthy Children, Strong Families and Vibrant Communities

The *Los Angeles County Child Care Policy Framework (Policy Framework) 2011-2013* reaffirms the commitment of the Board of Supervisors (Board), County departments and community stakeholders to close the gap between what we **know** and what we **do** to support the healthy development of young children, their families, and our communities.¹

Despite significant budget challenges in the last few years, implementation of the original Child Care Policy Framework², adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 6, 2009, resulted in significant accomplishments by several departments, a deeper understanding of ongoing challenges and a host of lessons learned; however, much work remains. The *Child Care Policy Framework 2011-2013* builds on those successes, shared learning across departments, community-based agencies and clients, and seeks to engage new partners who share the vision of promoting healthy children, strong families, and vibrant communities.

Goals for 2011-2013

1. The quality of child development services for children birth to five years of age in Los Angeles County will be improved as the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) is expanded and support services to STEP participants are intensified. *Why? The quality of care impacts early brain development.*
2. Utilization of local, State, and Federal child development resources will be maximized. All available resources and policies will help strengthen the child development infrastructure and support the expansion of high quality child development programs that integrate family support, health, mental health and other relevant services. *Why? Financial and regulatory support is needed from all sectors.*
3. County departments will work collaboratively with each other and community partners to maximize the utilization of available child development resources, support quality improvements and promote the delivery of integrated services for children and their families. *Why? The most vulnerable children need assistance to access services.*
4. County departments will work collaboratively with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), key school districts and community-based child development services to integrate services, thereby supporting effective:
 - a. articulation between child development and kindergarten, including approaches to effectively engage parents in the education of their children;
 - b. design of developmentally appropriate transitional kindergarten programs; and
 - c. identification and/or utilization of new or nontraditional funding for child development services such as, but not limited to, Federal Title 1 funds, to serve special populations. *Why? County departments are critical to providing integrated services for families*
5. The Chief Executive Office (CEO) will facilitate County department efforts to work internally, across departments, and with community partners, to integrate the Strengthening Families Approach (SFA) and Protective Factors into their work with children, families and communities; and engage families in high quality child development services. The CEO, with assistance from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and key local partners, will establish a multidisciplinary SFA learning community designed to support ongoing professional development and SFA projects that are underway or emerging in County departments. *Why? To ensure quality and consistent services.*

¹ Issue addressed by the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child in *The Science of Early Childhood Development*, (2007)
<http://www.developingchild.harvard.edu>.

² The original Child Care Policy Framework is available for review at www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

What We Know

Building on our collective experiences – we know that:

- Families must be active partners in determining which services and/or supports they need.
- Services and supports from multiple County departments and community-based agencies are frequently required to strengthen families and ensure the safe and healthy development of young children.
- Providing families with the services they need - when they need them - becomes significantly more difficult when County departments and community stakeholders attempt to work across disciplines with related but distinct goals, using different funding sources and their respective requirements.
- While these hurdles are sometimes overcome by valiant individual efforts, they should be systemically addressed by policies, systems and supports that bridge initiatives using common language and goals.
- A number of County departments, community stakeholders, and local philanthropies including First 5 LA and the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment are rethinking their practice models to align with the SFA. This approach seeks to engage the programs, services, and systems that are already supporting and working with children and families as partners in preventing maltreatment and promoting optimal development.
- The Protective Factors are the foundation of the SFA. Research indicates that when these factors are present and robust in families, the likelihood of child abuse, juvenile delinquency, school failure and poor connection to the labor market diminishes.

The Protective Factors are:

- Parental Resilience
 - Social Connections
 - Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
 - Concrete Supports in Times of Need
 - Children's Social and Emotional Competence³
- Adopting the SFA, along with an action plan to speed implementation, will provide County departments, community-based agencies, local school districts and philanthropic organizations a common language to bridge a variety of disciplines. In addition, families working with these entities will be engaged in intentional partnerships aimed at promoting the optimum development of their children.



³ "Small but significant changes that strengthen families and prepare children for success," page 2, Center for the Study of Social Policy, www.cssp.org.

What We Will Do

GOAL ONE: The quality of child development services in Los Angeles County will be improved as the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) is expanded and support services to STEP participants are intensified.

Lessons Learned 2009 - 2011:

Research has demonstrated that high quality child development services can generate substantial benefits compared to costs,⁴ contribute to significant reductions in child abuse and juvenile delinquency,⁵ and narrow the achievement gap.⁶ These laudable results are however, limited to high quality programs. Unfortunately, both national and local research has consistently documented that the majority of child development services offer mediocre quality. Programs with mediocre quality do not produce strong child outcomes.

STEP is a locally developed child care quality rating and support program administered by the Office of Child Care (OCC). STEP focuses on licensed child development centers and family child care homes serving children from birth to six years old and was launched in Los Angeles County in 2007. Currently, over 400 child development programs, representing 62 percent of the original recruitment goal, are enrolled in STEP and more than 1,500 early educators have participated in STEP trainings

⁴ Kilburn, M. Rebecca, Karoly, Lynn A., *The Economics of Early Childhood Policy: What the Dismal Science Has to Say About Investing in Children* (2008) RAND. Per this analysis, the Perry Preschool generated a benefit of \$17.07 for each \$1 invested and the Chicago Child Parent Centers generated a benefit of \$7.14 for each \$1 invested.

⁵ Reynolds, Arthur J., Temple, Judy A., Robertson, Dylan L., Mann, Emily A., *Age 21 Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Title I Chicago Child-Parent Center Program Executive Summary*, (2001). Participants in the Chicago Child-Parent Center Program experienced a 51 percent reduction in child maltreatment, a 33 percent lower rate of juvenile arrest, and a 42 percent reduction in arrest for a violent offense.

⁶ Karoly, Lynn, Zellman, Gail, Li, Jennifer, *Promoting Effective Preschool Programs* (2009).
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or received technical assistance. As of June 2010, 160 child development programs were rated by STEP. These ratings revealed that the majority of programs (83 percent) scored a "3" or below on the STEP rating scale. This indicates that most programs are meeting a minimal threshold in terms of the quality of services being provided.⁷ Children and families throughout Los Angeles County would benefit from a substantial improvement in child care program quality.

Strategies for 2011-2013:

- Expand STEP to additional communities.
- Expand STEP's on-site coaching.
- Link STEP participants to County resources so they can offer families "concrete supports in times of need".

Partners and Commitments for 2011-2013:

- Implement agreement with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to support and process 50+ Early Education Centers in STEP during FY 2010-11.
- Implement agreement with Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to expand STEP to additional communities.
- Work with child care resource and referral agencies to expand on-site coaching.
- Work with the Department of Public Health to research nutrition, activity standards, and obesity prevention for inclusion in the STEP rating matrix and training activities.

Success Story

"Thanks STEP for helping our center with funding to enhance our inside and outside environments, and providing staff with professional development support that has improved our service delivery to the children and families in our community."

Maxine Higa, Salvation Army
South Los Angeles Child Development Center

⁷ STEP Annual Report, 2011.

GOAL TWO: Local, State and Federal policies and budgets will strengthen the child development infrastructure and support the expansion of high quality child development programs that integrate family support, health, mental health and other relevant services into their operations.

Lessons Learned 2009 - 2011:

Both the State and Federal governments play a critical role in funding subsidized child development services. Los Angeles County has the capacity to act both in Sacramento and Washington D.C. Ensuring access to high quality child development services is consistent with meeting County Strategic Plan Goal 2 "Child, Family and Adult Well-Being: Enrich lives through integrated, cost-effective and client-centered supportive services."

There is a need for a strong, unified voice including parents and a range of stakeholders, to effectively advocate for the expansion of child development services. In addition, coordination at the County level can help to maximize the utilization of all available resources.

The ability to impact policies related to child development services are enhanced when families are full partners in the process and local stakeholders, both traditional and non-tradition, work toward common goals.

Strategies for 2011-2013:

The OCC, working in conjunction with the CEO Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IGEA) and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), will continue efforts to enlist public and private sector partners to aggressively advocate for the continuation and/or expansion of funding for high quality, comprehensive services which ensures the safety of children, promotes school success, strong families and communities. At the same time, the OCC and Roundtable will expand efforts to assure that all available resources are used to benefit families and children. A decades-long pattern of returning available

funds and under-utilization of existing capacity must be addressed. The OCC and Roundtable will lead efforts to develop a countywide mechanism to track use of existing capacity. Other specific actions will include informing members of the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation of the need to restore or maintain funding to:

- California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) Programs, and
- Child development infrastructure including but not limited to local child care planning councils, child care resource and referral services, and Community Care Licensing.

Similar efforts will be engaged at the local level to enlist public and private sector partners to advocate for local support of services that ensure the safety of children, promote school success and strong families. Activities will include:

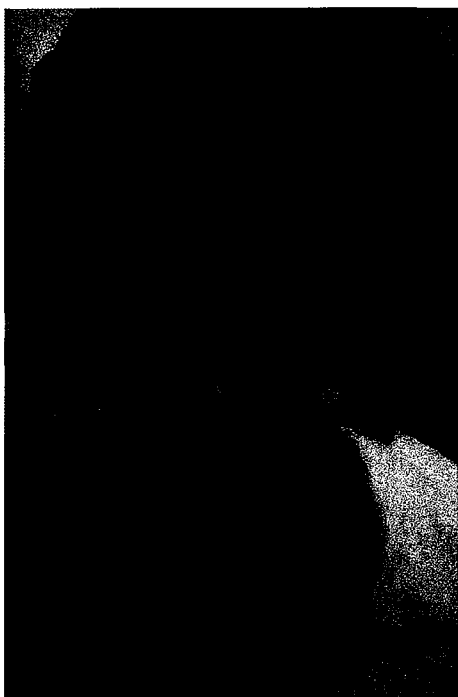
- Work with local philanthropic organizations to develop a "Bridge Funding" mechanism to assist State funded child development programs during times of State Budget stalemates.
- Work with First 5 LA and the local child development community to ensure both targeted and countywide support for high quality child development services.

**A Success Story
(Under the Circumstances)**

Despite experiencing the worst budget crisis in recent history, child development and other service providers stood together in opposition to Governor Schwarzenegger's budget for 2010-11. This unified front fueled the Legislature's refusal to accept the Governor's proposal to eliminate funding for the CalWORKs Program and most State funding for child development services.

Partners and Commitments for 2011-2013:

- Consistent with Board adopted policies, the CEO IGEA and County departments will continue to advocate to maintain and expand high quality child development services for children and families in Los Angeles County.
- OCC will work with a range of external advocacy partners to maintain and expand high quality child development services for children and families in Los Angeles County. Partners will include but not be limited to the Advancement Project, First 5 LA, Los Angeles County Office of Education - Head Start (LACOE-HS), LAUP, LAUSD, and Preschool California.



Challenges Ahead

California's budget crisis presents serious challenges to the well-being of children and their families. The California Budget Project has noted the following issues:

- California workers and their families face the toughest job market in decades, battered by the longest and most severe national recession in the post-World War II era.
- Millions of low- and middle-income Californians are struggling to make ends meet in the face of job loss or reduced hours of work.
- Consequently, more of California's families are turning to public programs such as Food Stamps, Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs for assistance.
- Increased demand for public programs comes at a time when recent budgets have made deep cuts to health and human services programs and the Governor has proposed more reductions to close the state's budget gap.⁸

Governor Brown's proposed budget for 2011-2012 includes further cuts to human services. Families in need of subsidized child development services may be facing a smaller pool of subsidized programs, higher parent fees, shorter periods of assistance, and lower income ceilings. "Infrastructure" supports such as Community Care Licensing, local child care planning councils, child care worker retention services, training and support are also facing serious reductions or complete elimination.

⁸ California Budget Project, *Proposed Budget Cuts Come at a Time of Growing Need*. (February 2010) www.cbp.org.

GOAL Three: County departments will work collaboratively with each other and with community partners to maximize the utilization of child development resources and promote the delivery of integrated family support services. Particular emphasis will be placed on connecting the following populations to child development resources and when appropriate, early intervention services:

- **CalWORKs families who are homeless and have young children.**
- **Children under the supervision of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department, including those in foster care, kin care, and with their families.**
- **Teen parents under the jurisdiction of DCFS and/or the Probation Department.**

Lessons Learned 2009 - 2011:

The “subsidized child care system” is, in reality, a complicated conglomeration of programs serving specific age groups, during specific times, with different funding sources and different eligibility requirements. The current array of child development services are a reflection of available resources – not necessarily family needs. High quality child development programs with the option of full-day, full-year services for children across age groups are in short supply.

We know that the demand for subsidized child development services far exceeds the supply – currently, over 29,000 income eligible children in Los Angeles County are waiting for a space to become available.⁹ We know that young children and families in stressful circumstances benefit from access to high quality child development services with stable and nurturing relationships. We know that access to such services can reduce incidents of abuse and neglect, or mitigate the long term impacts of trauma on children who experience abuse

and/or neglect. We know that children in families coping with homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, and mental health issues are among the most vulnerable and have the potential to reap significant benefits from participating in high quality child development services. Unfortunately, these children are among the least likely to access such services. In order to promote connections to child development services, Los Angeles County departments will work to identify vulnerable families with young children who are in need of child development services and will inform these families of local child development resources.

Additional resources are needed to support programs designed to meet the needs of low income working families as well as families dealing with additional challenges. New strategies are needed to ensure that the most vulnerable children and families are able to participate in high quality child development services.

Success Stories

A unique collaboration was launched between the LACOE-HS and the DCFS in 2009. DCFS piloted a variety of Head Start enrollment drives and found that DCFS Children’s Services Workers were more likely to promote the use of child development services and foster families were more likely to enroll children when the application process was significantly streamlined. As a result of these “enrollment drives”, 197 children in foster care were connected to local Head Start programs that were prepared to enroll and serve them.

LACOE-HS also collaborated with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). DPSS distributed LACOE – HS recruitment flyers to clients with age eligible young children. The opportunities for further collaboration have expanded as Head Start and Early Head Start have identified homeless children as priority populations for their services.

⁹ Data from the Los Angeles County Centralized Eligibility List as of December 2010.

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Strategies:

- OCC will work with County departments, child development program operators, child care resource and referral agencies and community stakeholders to develop strategies to make the subsidized child development system more accessible to vulnerable children and families in Los Angeles County.
- OCC, in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the County Library, will convene a forum with after school community-based providers to identify opportunities to increase the enrollment of DCFS and Probation youth in safe and educationally enriching activities during non-school hours.
- OCC, in conjunction with DCFS, will convene child care resource and referral agencies and child development stakeholders to explore possible collaborative efforts to include child development personnel in Team Decision Making conferences.
- Building on the successful DCFS-LACOE HS collaboration, DPSS will launch a targeted outreach effort aimed at CalWORKs participants with young children who are experiencing homelessness.
- The Roundtable will assist DCFS in promoting, among Children's Services Workers, an understanding of the lifelong impacts of early brain development including cognitive, emotional and physical well being.

Partners and Commitments for 2011-2013:

- Working in conjunction with the child care resource and referral agencies, DCFS will expand its "enrollment drives," to include LAUP and California State Preschool Programs.
- Transition Age Youth who are teen parents and teen parents who are clients of both

DCFS and Probation will be introduced to their child care resource and referral agency and assisted in enrolling their children in child development services prior to their leaving the child welfare system.

- The Roundtable will convene members representing DPSS, LACOE-HS, Long Beach Unified School District Head Start Programs, Regional Centers and Children Today, as well as other stakeholders, for the purpose of 1) exploring the unique array of services available to families with young children in Long Beach who are experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence and/or mental health issues, and 2) creating opportunities to replicate similar service systems in other parts of Los Angeles County.
- The ICAN (Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect) Task Force on Pregnant and Parenting Teen will review materials developed by the OCC which are intended to facilitate the enrollment of teen parents and their children in high quality child development services and assist with the distribution of these materials.
- The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles and the University of Southern California – School of Social Work will pursue the development of an intern program for Social Work graduate students. As currently conceived, interns would be stationed at local child care resource and referral agencies. As their understanding of the child development and family support service sector grows, they will guide families identified by specific County departments through the child development referral process, interfacing as needed with the County department.



GOAL FOUR: County departments will work collaboratively with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), key school districts and community-based child development programs to integrate a range of services, thereby supporting the effective:

- articulation between child development and kindergarten, including approaches to effectively engage parents in the education of their children,
- design of developmentally appropriate transitional kindergarten programs throughout the County, and
- identification and/or utilization of new/nontraditional funding for child development services such as, but not limited to, Federal Title 1 funds, to serve special populations.

Lessons Learned:

Children who experience poverty, abuse, neglect, parental substance abuse, mental illness, and/or exposure to violence are “at risk” for negative impacts on their physical and mental health. High quality child development programs that include family support services have proven to be an effective intervention for children and families in these circumstances.¹⁰ The trajectory for high school graduation, employment, and economic self sufficiency is set in these very early years.

Some studies have shown that the cognitive benefits associated with high quality child development services can erode by third grade. Rather than trying to fix the blame for this “erosion of benefits” it may be more appropriate to identify how to effectively bridge the child development and public school systems for the purpose of sustaining these benefits. Such efforts would build on the intensity of relationships common in child development programs, while also enhancing

the instructional support in these programs. When child development programs, transition kindergarten, kindergarten and elementary grades are viewed as a continuum rather than as separate entities, the likelihood of actually meeting the needs of individual children is increased.

Low-income working families, families involved with the child welfare system, and those struggling with homelessness, mental health, substance abuse, and/or domestic violence could all benefit from access to high quality child development services. Unfortunately, the supply of high quality subsidized child development services is dwarfed by the demand. While accessing these services can be complicated for any family, those without a fixed address or other challenges are at a serious disadvantage.

New resources are needed to expand the supply of high quality subsidized child development services for low-income working families and families experiencing trauma and to integrate family services into child development programs.

Success Story

The Packard Foundation and First 5 California are working with the Ounce of Prevention and The Buffet Early Education Fund to bring Educare to Los Angeles and Santa Clara. Under the leadership of LAUSD, a coalition is forming to plan and apply for the development of an Educare site in Los Angeles.

Educare is a network of state-of-the art child development centers operating full-day, full-year programs for children birth to five years of age. There are Educare sites in ten states, each serving from 140 to 200 low-income children and their families. These centers have highly qualified teaching staff in all classrooms, address a range of family service needs, and are actively engaged in research aimed at improving the practice in individual centers while also contributing new information to the field. Educare centers form a growing network committed to advancing quality and changing public policy in their own states and across the country.

¹⁰ *The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development.* Center on the Developing Child, www.developingchild.harvard.edu.

Strategies:

- The OCC and the Roundtable shall work in partnership with LACOE and key school districts to promote articulation between child development programs and grades K-3, and the establishment of developmentally appropriate transition kindergartens with effective parent engagement practices in school districts throughout the County.
- OCC and County departments will support the development of an Educare site in Los Angeles County and will promote co-location of County and other family services at the site.
- The Roundtable will work in partnership with DCFS, Probation, and other stakeholders to:
 - ✓ Engage the CDE/CDD in a dialogue regarding the potential long term impacts (physical, emotional and mental) of child abuse and neglect, and the role of high quality child development services to mitigate those impacts.
 - ✓ Explore regulatory or legislative remedies to facilitate access to high quality child development services for children determined to be at risk or who have experienced child abuse and/or neglect, including children who have been removed from their homes.
 - ✓ Identify and/or access new or nontraditional funding for child development services such as, but not limited to, Federal Title 1 and Title IVE Waiver funds, to serve special populations.

Partners and Commitments:

- LACOE will work with local school districts to promote articulation between child development and K-3 systems and the use of Title 1 funds for early education services.

- LAUSD will expand Transition Kindergarten services designed to build the cognitive, social and emotional skills needed for school success.
- The Roundtable will convene representatives of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and local child care resource and referral agencies to explore the use of child development settings for mental health services including but not limited to multidisciplinary team evaluations for children who are enrolled in child development programs.

Success Stories

The Preschool Clinics are a part of LAUSD's commitment to "recognize and respond" to the unique needs of individual children. The clinics target children birth to five years of age and make an array of professionals available including school psychologists, speech therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, audiometrists, and social workers. The clinics are held in preschool settings and all screenings are conducted with age appropriate tools. At the end of the clinic, families receive a written report, a toolkit of supporting materials, and have the opportunity to discuss follow-up options.

Beginning in April 2011, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles will launch an innovative seasonal flu vaccine outreach and distribution program serving the hardest-to-reach, most vulnerable populations, throughout Los Angeles County.

Alliance agencies will collaborate with Health Educators from DPH to develop vaccine health literacy materials and will create innovative trainings and workshops for parents and providers that are aimed at "re-norming" the community's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to vaccine-preventable illnesses. Further, the program is intended to create a "cocoon" of people in the lives of young children. When caregivers are protected from seasonal flu, the risk of serious flu illnesses are reduced for the children in their care.

Goal Five: The Chief Executive Office (CEO) will facilitate County department efforts to work internally, across departments, and with community partners, to integrate the Strengthening Families Approach (SFA) and Protective Factors into their work with children, families and communities; and engage families in high quality child development services. The CEO, with assistance from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and key local partners, will establish a multidisciplinary SFA learning community designed to support ongoing professional development and SFA projects that are underway or emerging in County departments.

Lessons Learned:

As noted earlier in this document, SFA seeks to engage the programs, services, and systems that are already supporting and working with children and families as partners in both preventing maltreatment and promoting optimal development. Developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, SFA began as an approach to child abuse prevention which focused on children from birth to five years of age. This age group was targeted because it accounts for a significant proportion of children who experience abuse and/or neglect. This period of high risk for abuse is also a time of critical brain development in young children. Adverse experiences during these early years have the potential for lifelong negative impacts to both physical and mental health.

A number of federal government agencies and national and local foundations are actively engaged in the SFA and 33 states that have adopted the SFA are participating in the Strengthening Families National Network. The Director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Erwin McEwen, describes why Illinois has adopted this approach to promoting child safety and well-being:

"We protect children when we strengthen and support families. Strengthening Families Illinois brings early education and child welfare professionals together not only to

prevent harm, but to build protective capacity in the place where it matters most: the family."¹¹

As in other parts of the county, young children, birth to five years of age account for a substantial portion (averaging 30 percent per month) of the open cases managed by the DCFS. Local philanthropies, community-based agencies and specific programs within some County departments, have adopted the SFA to serve children and families in Los Angeles County.

It is time to expand the commitment to SFA, including the five Protective Factors, from specific projects within various County departments, to a countywide commitment. Adoption of the SFA could provide a common language and approach to services across disciplines, County departments and community-based agencies. SFA could also facilitate coordination across diverse initiatives. Fortunately, the Center for the Study of Social Policy is prepared to provide guidance to County departments as we move forward in this endeavor. The Center for the Study of Social Policy will draw on the extensive experience of working with public and private entities around the country.

Success Story

During 2009-2010, the OCC and LACOE-HS provided a full day of training on the SFA, early brain development, and the range of local child development resources available to families to nearly 300 Deputy Juvenile Probation Officers. This training supported the Probation Department's effort to adopt a "family engagement focus", modify their emerging "practice model" and implement the SFA. Working with the same collaborative partners, the Probation Department has identified a series of action steps to reinforce and expand the first year training activities.

¹¹ Strengthening Families Illinois E Update, January-February 2008 at www.strengtheningfamiliesillinois.org.

Success Stories

The DMH Birth to Five Program has infused the SFA and Protective Factors into the 0-5 Initial Assessment training that is required of all Birth to Five mental health providers. In addition, substantial efforts have been made with the DMH staff co-located at the DCFS offices to ensure inclusion of the approach in their work. Numerous other DMH and/or community agency sponsored trainings have similarly incorporated the role of the Protective Factors as part of trainings on multiple topics in the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health field that are designed for mental health providers, Head Start mental health consultants, early care and education providers, and representatives from other disciplines.

Evaluation of the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) funded by DCFS between 2008 and 2010 includes promising indications that Protective Factors can be enhanced through community-based social networking strategies that complement more intensive and expensive service strategies, and are effective across a broad range of families and communities. Findings from the Relationship-based Organizing Protective Factors Survey include responses from over 1000 parents and youth who participated in PIDP activities. Data collected from the survey and focus groups held in all eight Service Planning Areas (SPAs) highlighted the benefits that parents and youth felt they had received; those who participated in Neighborhood Action Councils and social networks reported a pattern of benefits including greater involvement in their community, more desire to engage in community activities, and feeling less lonely or isolated.

Strategies:

- Consistent with the CEO's mission to facilitate "effective program implementation", the OCC will work with the Center for the Study of Social Policy to promote the integration of the SFA into County department practices by

establishing a multidisciplinary learning community and convening multi-disciplinary professional development opportunities.

- Work collaboratively with First 5 LA, LAUP, the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment and other local entities to integrate work across County departments and among community stakeholders.
- Work collaboratively with the Education Coordinating Council and County Commissions to support departments in accessing child development services for their clients.
- Work collaboratively with First 5 LA in their place-based approach and countywide efforts to promote the SFA.

Partners and Commitments:

- CEO/SIB/OCC will lead efforts to establish a SFA learning community involving County departments and community stakeholders with assistance from the Center for the Study of Social Policy.
- OCC will work collaboratively with County departments, First 5 LA and stakeholders such as the child care resource and referral agencies to inventory existing materials and organizational access to traditional and social media that could be used to inform parents of the critical importance of early brain development and the role of high quality child development services in supporting optimum brain development.
- The Roundtable to work collaboratively with CEO Public Information, Cable and Telecommunications to develop a coordinated public information campaign using the materials identified above and various forms of media.





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